

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

August 2011 – Week 1

Air Date: July 31 – August 6 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: NO MORE CHICKENS

AUGUST 1973 AND IT'S THE END OF AN ERA.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

AUGUST 1, 1973. LA GRANGE. NAMED FOR ITS DEPRESSION-ERA PRACTICE OF ACCEPTING CHICKENS AS PAYMENT, A CENTURY-OLD BROTHEL KNOWN AS THE CHICKEN RANCH IS CLOSING ITS DOORS.

A MONTHLONG INVESTIGATION BY FLAMBOYANT HOUSTON TV REPORTER MARVIN ZINDLER CREATED A PUBLIC FUROR AGAINST THE HOUSE OF ILL REPUTE. WHEN GOVERNOR DOLPH BRISCO HIMSELF ORDERED THE RANCH CLOSED, IT BECAME A LEGEND.

IN 1977 THE HOUSE WAS MOVED TO DALLAS AS A RESTAURANT, WITH ORIGINAL MADAM EDNA MILTON AS HOSTESS. "THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS", A MUSICAL BASED ON THE RANCH, WAS A HIT ON BROADWAY AND LATER AT THE BOX OFFICE.

THE CHICKEN RANCH SAID GOODNIGHT 38 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Walter F. Pilcher, "CHICKEN RANCH," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ysc01>), accessed July 21, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Chicken Ranch (Texas), Wikipedia, accessed July 21, 2011, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicken_Ranch_%28Texas%29.

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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